

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) In a local area network ("LAN") system comprising at least one client, a method performed by a client to receive a MAC address for said network comprises:

selecting, by said client, a MAC address available for said network;

monitoring, by said client, broadcasts over said network for each MAC address advertisement frame transmitted over said network responsive to selecting said MAC address;

determining whether each said advertisement frame monitored by said client is an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

broadcasting a MAC address request frame by said client wherein said MAC address request is requesting said selected MAC address, responsive to a determination that each said MAC advertisement frame monitored is not an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

determining whether a MAC address response frame was received by said client responsive to broadcasting said MAC address ~~advertisement~~ request frame; and

broadcasting a MAC address advertisement frame from said client wherein said MAC address advertisement frame is for said selected address indicating said client is using said selected address if no MAC address response frame was received.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a MAC advertisement frame by said client;

determining whether said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address was received by said client;

sending a duplicate MAC address frame from said client, responsive to a determination that said MAC address advertisement frame is for said selected MAC address; and

returning to the act of broadcasting MAC address advertisement frames for said selected address from said client.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a MAC address response frame from a server by said client;

determining whether said server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address for said client responsive to said MAC address response frame being received;

employing said MAC address for said client; and

proceeding to said act of broadcasting said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address from said client.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises rejecting said selected MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises indicating a warning message by said client if no server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises indicating a warning message by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame is received.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises:

returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said client if no server confirms the availability of the selected MAC address.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further comprises:

returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received for the selected MAC address.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A network device comprising a client, wherein said client comprises a processor and a memory; wherein said memory contains a program which when executed causes the processor to perform the acts comprising:

selecting, by said client, a MAC address available for said network;

monitoring, by said client, broadcasts over said network for each MAC address advertisement frame transmitted over said network responsive to selecting said MAC address;

determining whether each said advertisement frame monitored by said client is an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

broadcasting a MAC address request frame from said client requesting said selected MAC address responsive to a determination that each said MAC advertisement frame monitored is not an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

determining whether a MAC address response frame was received by said client responsive to broadcasting said MAC address ~~advertisement request~~ frame; and

broadcasting a MAC address advertisement frame from said client for said selected address indicating said client is using said selected address if no MAC address response frame was received.

13. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 12, wherein said program further comprises the acts of:

receiving a MAC advertisement frame by said client;

determining whether said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address was received by said client;

sending a duplicate MAC address frame from said client, responsive to a determination that said MAC address advertisement frame ~~of~~ is for said selected MAC address; and

returning to the act of broadcasting MAC address advertisement frames for said selected address from said client.

14. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the acts of:

receiving a MAC address response frame from a server in said client;

determining whether said server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address of said client responsive to said MAC address response frame being received;

employing said MAC address by said client; and

proceeding to said act of broadcasting said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address from said client.

15. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the act of rejecting said selected MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received.

16. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the act of indicating a warning message by said client if no server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address.

17. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the act of indicating a warning message in said client if a duplicate MAC address frame is received.

18. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the act of returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said server if no server confirms the availability of the selected MAC address.

19. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the act of returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received for the selected MAC address.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A network device comprising at least one client, wherein each of said at least one client comprises:

means in said client for selecting a MAC address available for said network;

means in said client for monitoring broadcasts over said network for each MAC address advertisement frame transmitted over said network responsive to selecting said MAC address;

means in said client for determining whether each said advertisement frame monitored is an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

means in said client for broadcasting a MAC address request frame requesting said selected MAC address responsive to a determination that each said

MAC advertisement frame monitored is not an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

means in said client for determining whether a MAC address response frame was received responsive to broadcasting said MAC address advertisement ~~request~~ request frame; and

means in said client for broadcasting a MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address indicating said client is using said selected address if no MAC address response frame was received.

24. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 23, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises:

means in said client for receiving a MAC advertisement frame;

means in said client for determining whether said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address was received;

means in said client for sending a duplicate MAC address frame, responsive to a determination that said MAC address advertisement frame is for said selected MAC address; and

means in said client for returning to the act of broadcasting MAC address advertisement frames for said selected address

25. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises:

means in said client for receiving a MAC address response frame from a server

means in said client for determining whether said server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address responsive to said MAC address response frame being received;

and

means in said client for proceeding to said act of broadcasting said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address.

26. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises means in said client for rejecting said selected MAC address if a duplicate MAC address frame was received.

27. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises means in said client for indicating a warning message if no server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address.

28. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises means in said client for indicating a warning message if a duplicate MAC address frame is received.

29. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises means in said client for returning to the act of selecting a MAC address if no server confirms the availability of the selected MAC address.



30. (Previously Amended) The network device of Claim 24, wherein each of said at least one client further comprises a means in said client for returning to the act of selecting a MAC address if a duplicate MAC address frame was received for the selected MAC address.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for receiving a MAC address, for said network, said method comprising:

selecting a MAC address available in said client for said network;

monitoring broadcasts over said network by said client for each MAC address advertisement frame transmitted over said network responsive to selecting said MAC address;

determining whether each said advertisement frame monitored by said client is an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

broadcasting a MAC address request frame from said client requesting said selected MAC address, responsive to a determination that each said MAC advertisement frame monitored is not an advertisement frame for said selected MAC address;

determining whether a MAC address response frame was received by said client responsive to broadcasting said MAC address ~~advertisement~~ request frame; and

broadcasting a MAC address advertisement frame from said client for said selected address indicating said client is using said selected address if no MAC address response frame was received.

35. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a MAC advertisement frame in said client

determining whether said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address was received by said client;

sending a duplicate MAC address frame from said client, responsive to a determination that said MAC address advertisement frame ~~of~~ is for said selected MAC address; and

returning to the act of broadcasting MAC address advertisement frames for said selected address.

36. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said client-side method further comprises:

receiving a MAC address response frame from a server in said client;

determining whether said server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address responsive to said MAC address response frame being received by said client;

employing said MAC address for said client; and

proceeding to said act of broadcasting said MAC address advertisement frame for said selected address from said client.

37. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said method further comprises rejecting said selected MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received.

38. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said method further comprises indicating a warning message from said client if no server confirms the availability of said selected MAC address.

39. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said method further comprises indicating a warning message from said client if a duplicate MAC address frame is received.

40. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said method further comprises:

returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said client if no server confirms the availability of the selected MAC address.

41. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said method further comprises:

returning to the act of selecting a MAC address by said client if a duplicate MAC address frame was received for the selected MAC address.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)